United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/645
21 May 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General views with "grave concern" tragic incidents which took place yesterday in Israel and the occupied territories, and today in Jordan.

+ Secretary-general, in consultation with current OAU Chairman, establishes Identification Commission to be part of preparatory process for implementation of Settlement Proposals for resolving question of Western Sahara.

+ Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Central America announces "the uninterrupted continuation" of peace process in accordance with the Geneva accords on El Salvador. Next round of direct talks to take place mid-June.

+ UNRWA and Red Cross express deep concern about recent incidents of violence in West Bank and Gaza Strip. United Nations Special Committee mission to visit Syria, Jordan and Egypt to review developments relating to human rights situation in occupied territories.

+ Trusteeship Council, beginning 1990 session, discusses situation in Palau following plebiscite.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar views with grave concern the tragic incidents which took place yesterday in Israel and the occupied territories, and today in Jordan, according to a statement attributable to his Spokesman. It states that yesterday's attack on Gazans reporting for work in Israel, in which seven were murdered and 10 others wounded, sparked demonstrations throughout the occupied territories that resulted in seven further Palestinian deaths by Israeli army gunfire, and the wounding of hundreds of others.

The statement said those incidents highlighted the vulnerability repeatedly expressed by those living under Israeli occupation. Time and again during the past two-and-a-half years, the Palestinians had appealed for

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measures to ensure their safety and protection. For his part, the Secretary-General had on numerous occasions called on the Israeli authorities, as the occupying Power, to abide scrupulously by their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. He urged that appropriate steps be taken to enable the Palestinians to feel secure.

The statement goes on to say that the attack which took place this morning against innocent tourists in Amman, wounding nine of them, could not be viewed in isolation from the events that occurred yesterday. The lack of progress towards peace, which could only be achieved through effective negotiations, had deepened the frustration of the peoples of the Middle East, contributing to an escalation of tension throughout the area. It said the Secretary-General felt it was imperative that a negotiating process involving all parties to the conflict be launched as soon as possible.

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An Identification Commission whose responsibility it is to verify the eligibility to vote of the people of Western Sahara who wish to participate in the proposed referendum and to issue them voter registration cards has been established by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Commission is part of the preparatory process for the implementation of the Settlement Proposals for resolving the question of Western Sahara.

In determining who should be eligible to participate in the proposed referendum, the Commission will take, as a starting point for the preparation of the voter list, the information contained in the census carried out in 1974 by the then Spanish Administration.

A meeting is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 4 to 6 June for the purpose of explaining to a representative group of tribal leaders from Western Sahara the Commission's terms of reference and its methods of work.

The meeting, in which the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara, Johannes J. Manz, as well as other senior advisers will participate, will also provide an opportunity for the 38 tribal leaders invited to make suggestions to the Commission on the best means of identifying qualified voters, and ways and means by which they can be of help to the Commission during the actual performance of its work.

The settlement proposals were agreed to, in principle, in August 1988 by the two parties to the conflict -- Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO). The proposals provide that a referendum should be held throughout the Territory for which the United Nations, in co-operation with OAU, will have sole and exclusive responsibility, including its organization, supervision and conduct.

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Agreement has been reached between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), to continue peace talks to end the armed conflict in that country. Initial talks have been going on since 16 May in Caracas with the participation of the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

Mr. de Soto met with the press in the Venezuelan capital and announced the uninterrupted continuation of the peace process through the channels agreed upon in the Geneva accords, and the fact that the next round of direct talks would take place in mid-June at a location to be determined later.

He hailed the fact that "never before have both the Government and FMLN held continuous meetings for such a long period". He also indicated that the process had moved to a point that it was now possible to separate substance from procedure, which was why the agreement constituted a substantial advance.

In the agreement, FMLN and the Salvadorian Government have set as objectives for the peace talks the ending of the armed struggle. The United Nations would verify the future cease-fire, subject to approval by the Security Council. Among the other issues in the peace talks are the promotion and protection of human rights, the future role of the armed forces and reform of the civil, political and legal systems.

The parties agreed to try to reach political agreement on these issues by mid-September.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has expressed deep distress and concern at the heavy toll of casualties resulting from clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday during protests over the killing of seven Palestinians by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv.

The Agency said that at least six Palestinians were killed and more than 700 wounded when Israeli forces used live ammunition, beatings and tear gas to disperse demonstrations which erupted spontaneously on the news of the killings in Israel -- one of the worst outbursts since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising 29 months ago.

During Sunday's incidents in the Gaza Strip, four Palestinians were shot dead by soldiers. More than 600 Palestinians were treated at UNRWA clinics or local hospitals in the Gaza Strip. Of these, 519 had been shot -- 382 with live ammunition and 137 with plastic-covered steel balls.

In the West Bank, where protests were more scattered and the military response more restrained, two Palestinian villagers were shot dead and dozens wounded in the day of protest.

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A general curfew on the Gaza Strip confined 650,000 people, most of them refugees, to their houses. Curfews imposed on all of the Gaza Strip and wide areas of the West Bank today brought virtually all UNRWA education, health and relief services to a halt.

In the West Bank, the Israeli authorities had ordered all schools closed today even before curfews were declared. UNRWA medical services in both Gaza and the West Bank were operating today on an emergency basis, with regular preventive health care and mother-and-child clinics suspended as some of the medical staff were not allowed in.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also expressed concern about recent incidents, saying that the extremely serious level of violence in the area had required its increased presence in the field.

The ICRC stated that for the second time in less than a month the occupied territories, in particular the Gaza Strip, had been the "scene of violence and repression" in which hundreds of people had been injured and dozens had died. In view of the situation, it voiced its "acute concern" about the persistence and aggravation of the conflict, which it said was causing daily suffering to the residents of the occupied territories. It urged the occupying Power to do everything it possibly could to ensure that the life and physical integrity of the civilian population were respected.

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories will carry out a field mission to Damascus, Amman and Cairo from 23 May to 5 June to review the latest developments relating to the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel. During the mission, the Committee will collect the testimony of persons with first-hand experience of the situation.

The mission started today in Geneva, where three meetings were scheduled to be held.

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The Trusteeship Council began its 1990 session today, hearing views on the continuing obligations of the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands following the plebiscite held in Palau on a Compact of Free Association with the United States.

Palau, the last remaining entity in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to decide its political status, voted by a 60.8 per cent majority to approve the Compact. However, its constitution requires a 75 per cent majority vote to enact the Compact.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior of the United States, Stella Guerra, introducing her country's annual report, said she could no longer assume that Palau would adopt the Compact in the near future. Her Government would respect the will of the people and continue to carry out its responsibilities as Administering Authority in a more active and intensive way.

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READEX FICHE

The representative of Palau said the Compact could have been viewed as an attempt to compensate for the failings of the United States Administration of Palau. He hoped the United States would honour its Trusteeship responsibilities irrespective of Compact implementation, and he spoke of Palau's need for assistance in building a strong infrastructure in order to recognize its economic potential.

This afternoon the Council heard six petitioners on the situation in the Trust Territory.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/646
22 May 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council holds consultations on situation in the Middle East and on Central America; Secretary-General refers to "disturbing aspects" in process of demobilization of Nicaraguan resistance.

+ Social Committee of Economic and Social Council concludes work of session, adopting drafts on proposed call for negotiated settlement of Cambodian conflict and verified troop withdrawal; trade unionists in South Africa; situation in Lebanon.

+ UNRWA Commissioner-General deplores "excessive use of force" by Israeli security forces against civilian population, during second day of violence in Gaza Strip, yesterday.

+ New Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union to the United Nations presents credentials to Secretary-General.

* * *

The members of the Security Council held informal consultations today on the situation in the Middle East. The consultations were being resumed this evening. Earlier, officials said the possibility of a formal meeting of the Council would be under consideration.

Council members also held consultations on the situation in Central America. In a statement to the Council members, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he wanted to draw their attention to "disturbing aspects of the demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance inside Nicaragua". He said the demobilization process was unfortunately not proceeding in the manner envisaged by the Council.

The average number demobilized daily was about 100, whereas an average of 500-600 was required to complete demobilization by 10 June, in accordance with the various agreements between the Nicaraguan parties. The attitude of the leadership of the Nicaraguan resistance to the demobilization process "had remained ambiguous", he added.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General said he had described the "dangers" which persisted in the present situation in order to invite the Council to take early action to ensure that the assumptions on which it decided to authorize the participation of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in the demobilization process, were not undermined.

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A draft decision calling on all parties to the Cambodian question to engage in a negotiated settlement of the conflict was approved today as the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council concluded its work for the year.

According to the draft, approved by a recorded vote of 31 in favour to 4 against (Cuba, India, Ukraine and USSR), with 15 abstentions, the Council would also affirm that a complete withdrawal of foreign forces must be verified by the United Nations within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement. The Council would also note the announced withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia and the subsequent reports about the return to the country of some foreign troops.

The draft was one of four draft decisions and six draft resolutions approved by the Committee this morning.

By one of the draft resolutions, adopted without objection, the Council would once again call on the Government of South Africa to stop the persecution of trade unionists and to abolish legislation that impeded the exercise of trade union rights; the Council would also call for the unconditional release of all trade unionists and an end to the repression of the black trade union movement.

By a draft decision on the situation in southern Lebanon, approved without objection, the Council would endorse a request that the Secretary-General invite the Government of Israel to provide information on its implementation of a resolution by the Commission on Human Rights on the matter. The Commission had, among other things, called upon the Government of Israel, as the occupying Power, to comply with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, specifically the Fourth Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Under a draft resolution on social issues, approved without objection, the Council would request Member countries to provide the Secretary-General with information to help him prepare his fifth five-yearly report on capital punishment, due in 1995.

Among those addressing the Committee, the observer from Viet Nam, speaking before action on the draft on Cambodia, said it was a repetition of old positions which ignored the major developments in Cambodia over the past 10 years. It deliberately failed to admit the total withdrawal of Viet Nam's troops from Cambodia, in spite of the recognition by world public opinion of that event as being of great significance for the settlement of the Cambodian

problem. The remaining issue was the prevention of the Khmer Rouge from reinstating its genocidal regime in Cambodia.

The observer from Cambodia said that to achieve a settlement Vietnamese troops must be completely withdrawn. Their withdrawal also must be verified by the United Nations. Independent observers had reported the return to her country of Vietnamese troops. Fresh Vietnamese troops had reportedly been dispatched to western Cambodia clothed in the uniforms of the authorities in Phnom Penh. She said Viet Nam had rejected a United Nations role in the country. Her Government supported the holding of democratic free and fair elections under United Nations control.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has reported that during a second day of violence in the Gaza Strip yesterday, four more Palestinians were killed and 142 wounded by live ammunition, bringing the toll of Palestinian victims to 10 killed and 842 wounded during the past two days of violent clashes.

The UNRWA Commissioner-General, Giorgio Giacomelli, deplored the "excessive use of force" by the Israeli security forces against the civilian population. He said at the Agency's headquarters in Vienna today that "needless deaths and suffering could have been avoided" if the military forces had exercised restraint during the demonstrations of mourning which followed the killing of seven Palestinians by an Israeli assailant. He also said he was disturbed of the use of live rounds of ammunition which appeared to indicate a "disregard for human life."

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Yuliy Mikhailovich Vorontsov, the new Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union to the United Nations, presented his credentials today to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mr. Vorontsov was First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, a post he held since 1986. He has also been his country's Ambassador to Afghanistan, France and India. Between assignments abroad, he occupied several posts in the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Vorontsov joined the Soviet diplomatic service in 1952. From 1954 to 1958, he worked on the staff of the Soviet Permanent Mission to the United Nations, and served as Counsellor of the Mission from 1963 to 1965.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/647
23 May 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council holds consultations on the situation in Central America.

+ President of Security Council, in consultations with its members, decides to hold meeting on situation in occupied Arab territories in Geneva on Friday (25 May).

+ Democratic Yemen and Yemen, united after century of separation, welcomed to United Nations as Republic of Yemen.

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Members of the Security Council this evening continued consultations on the situation in Central America.

The Council was considering its response to a statement yesterday from the Secretary-General who expressed his concern about the process of the demobilization of members of the Nicaraguan resistance inside Nicaragua. The Secretary-General said that the present rate of demobilization would not allow the process to be completed by the date of 10 June, the date which had been agreed by the parties concerned.

He invited the Council to consider ways to ensure that the demobilization should proceed rapidly, in order that the 10 June deadline were met, and said members might wish to take early action to ensure that the assumptions on which the Council authorized the United Nations participation in the process were not undermined.

In consultations called by the Council President, Klaus Tornudd of Finland, members were considering the Secretary-General's statement.

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After day-long consultations yesterday, the Council President announced late last night that a meeting of the Council would take place in Geneva on Friday (25 March) on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

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For information media—not an official record

At a news conference at United Nations Headquarters this afternoon, Clovis Maksoud of the League of Arab States said the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) would address the Council in Geneva, to achieve the highest level possible in the discussion of the situation in the territories.

He said that the Arab States sought an enhanced United Nations role in observing and monitoring the situation in the occupied territories in order to provide protective measures for the Palestinian population. He also stressed the wish of the Arab States for a reinforcement of the mandate prescribed for the International Red Cross to ensure that the Geneva Convention was complied with by the occupying authorities.

Ambassador Maksoud said there was "a growing sensitivity" on the part of the United States Administration to "the major legitimate concern of the Arabs about the escalating of oppressive measures by Israel in the occupied territories". United States judgement on the issue, he said, was "becoming less amenable to the machinations of the Israeli lobby and its supporters in the United States Congress". The Arabs welcomed the change but did not yet consider it sufficient.

* * *

After a century of separation, Democratic Yemen and Yemen, located at the entrance to the Red Sea, united yesterday to form a new republic.

The Republic of Yemen, roughly the size of France, is the home to 13 million people.

Today the United Nations welcomed the new Republic of Yemen to the community of na ions. The red, white and black national flag was raised at a ceremony at Hea quarters.

The union, which was approved last November, became official yesterday as President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was elected by the Parliaments of both countries, proclaimed the two countries one.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/648
24 May 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council calls on Nicaraguan resistance to meet fully demobilization commitments; supports Government efforts to facilitate demobilization.

+ United Nations official briefs correspondents in Geneva about Security Council meeting tomorrow on situation in occupied Arab territories.

+ United Nations Development Programme releases its 1990 Human Development Report; says "human development is incomplete without freedom and democracy".

+ Commission on Transnational Corporations concludes reconvened special session, asking Economic and Social Council for "future appropriate action" on code of conduct.

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Members of the Security Council at a meeting last night expressed concern about the slow pace of the demobilization of the resistance forces in Nicaragua, and called on the resistance to "meet fully and urgently the commitments it made in agreeing to demobilize".

The Council, through a statement made by its President, Klaus Tornudd of Finland, asked the Secretary-General to continue to observe the situation on the ground first-hand, and to report to the Council by 4 June. It further requested him to convey the Council's position to the five Central American Presidents and their concern to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Council also called on all those with influence in the matter to take action to ensure that demobilization proceeded as agreed by the Nicaraguan parties, and in particular to ensure that the 10 June deadline was respected.

The parties in Nicaragua, in agreements concluded at Managua on 18-19 April, had stipulated that demobilization would be completed by

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10 June. However, in a report to the Security Council made earlier this month, which outlined in detail the activities of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), the Secretary-General indicated that the demobilization had not begun on 25 April, as had been envisioned, since certain members of the resistance inside Nicaragua had refused to lay down their weapons.

In a resolution adopted on 4 May, which extended the mandate of ONUCA until 7 November, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report not later than 10 June on the completion of the demobilization process. That date was expected to mark the termination of ONUCA's involvement in the Nicaraguan cease-fire, separation of forces and demobilization.

* * *

A United Nations official told correspondents in Geneva today that Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), was expected to be the first speaker at the meeting of the Security Council tomorrow in Geneva on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The President of the Security Council is to arrive in Geneva tomorrow morning, together with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who will probably meet Chairman Arafat.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released its 1990 Human Development Report today, saying "human development is incomplete without freedom and democracy". It strongly suggested that people within democracies had more choices available to them, leading to higher income and literacy levels.

Taking into account the life-span, literacy and basic purchasing power of people, rather than just a country's national wealth, the report ranked Japan number one out of 130 countries, followed by Sweden and Switzerland, and then most of the other Western European countries.

The report said high levels of human development could be achieved, even at modest income levels, when people were placed at the centre of development. It said that while North-South income gaps remained enormous, with 1987 average per capita income in the South still only 6 per cent of that in the North, "human gaps" were narrowing. Average life expectancy in the South was already 80 per cent of the Northern average; for adult literacy the proportion was 66 per cent.

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The Commission on Transnational Corporations today ended its reconvened special session and decided to send a report to the Economic and Social

Council noting that it had not been able to reach an agreement on the formulation of the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations. The report requested the Council to decide on future appropriate action.

According to the brief report, several delegations expressed their willingness to continue the negotiations in the future. It was also decided that the Secretariat would prepare a document to be transmitted to the Council containing a list of the major issues pending.

The Chairman, Miguel Marin-Bosch of Mexico, said the Commission had succeeded in preparing a draft code, most of which had been agreed to by members. He regretted that some delegations could not bridge their differences in the wording of some proposals. It was his intention to transmit the draft to the Council and the next phase of their work would depend on its decision.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/649
25 May 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council meets in Geneva on situation in occupied Arab territories; hears statements from Yasser Arafat of PLO, from representatives of Israel and from 16 other representatives.

+ Economic and Social Council, concluding spring session, calls for encouragement of positive changes in South Africa, measures to combat all forms of racism; adopts drafts on various human rights issues.

* * *

The Security Council met today in Geneva, at the request of Bahrain on behalf of the Group of Arab States, "to consider the crime of collective murder committed by Israel against the Palestinian people".

The Council adjourned after hearing statements from 18 representatives and will continue its discussion tomorrow morning. After the meeting Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is scheduled to meet with Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Mr. Arafat was among those who addressed the Council today. He said the present meeting stemmed from the fact that the situation had reached a dangerous point and required urgent international action. The Council must shoulder its responsibility to protect the lives of Palestinian men, women and children and put an end to the occupation. Israel must be made to comply with United Nations resolutions. In all its practices against the Palestinian people, Israel considered itself outside the boundary of international law, he said.

He proposed the designation by the Secretary-General of a permanent envoy to work full-time on the peace process, or for the Secretary-General to undertake that assignment on his own. He called for the adoption by the Council of a resolution to provide international protection to the Palestinian people; to stop settler immigration in the occupied Palestinian territory, and to halt construction of settlements in the occupied land, particularly Arab Jerusalem.

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For information media—not an official record

Further, he said, the Council should call its permanent members to an immediate meeting on the convening of an international peace conference. It should start arrangements for the imposition of sanctions on Israel as a result of its crimes against the Palestinian people and its breach of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, and its violation of international law and United Nations resolutions and decisions.

For Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu said there was no justification for convening the meeting. The Council had not been convened to advance peace but to retard it. That was clear if one examined the attitudes of Israel and the Arab side to attacks on Jews and attacks on Arabs, respectively.

Israel's response last week to the actions of a solitary mad individual had been one of shock, revulsion, grief and sympathy. Israeli leaders had expressed shock. The criminal had been immediately apprehended and would be brought to justice.

In contrast, when an Israeli bus had been attacked by two Palestinian gunmen in Egypt, and two persons had been killed and 17 wounded, Israel had not called for revenge, nor had it called for riots against the Arabs. Rather, it had called for restraint, saying that the solitary act of a madman did not reflect on the whole Arab population. Its call for restraint had worked; there had been no violence.

The Council's present meeting was an attempt to violate international law and to encroach on Israel's right to govern the occupied territories. It also served as a springboard for "total war on Jewish immigration", because immigration was perceived as "nurturing" Israel. He said Israel would insist on the support of every responsible Government for the right of every Jew to go to the Jewish homeland, he said.

A United Nations official told correspondents in Geneva that the Secretary-General had met with Yasser Arafat before the Council meeting, for a discussion of the present situation in the territories.

Mr. Arafat outlined for the Secretary-General the proposals he later put foreward in his speech to the Council, and stressed the urgent necessity to ensure the protection of the Palestinians in the territories. They also discussed the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East question in general, including the necessity for an international conference to solve the problem. They also touched on the Iran/Iraq issue.

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The Economic and Social Council, completing its spring session in New York, today welcomed the emerging political climate inside South Africa, and called on Governments to encourage positive change in that country, based on the guidelines set out in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted a recent special session of the General Assembly.

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In a resolution adopted by a 42 votes in favour to none against, with 10 abstentions, on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Council called on Governments to maintain existing measures against South Africa until there was clear evidence of profound and irreversible change in that country.

In another action today, the Council noted "with deep concern that the official invitations being extended to the President of South Africa by some countries could be construed to mean the relaxation of pressure against the apartheid regime". Voting on this was 36 in favour to 8 against, with 7 abstentions. Non-supporters were mainly Western countries.

The Council called on all Governments to co-operate with a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights in updating a report on the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations assisting the "racist and colonialist regime" of South Africa. The Secretary-General was asked to bring the updated report to the attention of Governments whose national financial institutions continue to deal with the Pretoria regime.

That resolution was among a number contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights. The Council called on all parties to the Cambodian question to engage in a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The Council affirmed that a complete withdrawal of foreign forces must be verified by the United Nations within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement. The Council noted reports about the return to the country of some foreign troops previously said to have withdrawn.

The Council decided to increase the membership of the Commission on Human Rights from 43 to 53 and that the 10 additional seats should be allocated among the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/650
29 May 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, on official visit to Canada, meets Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs.

+ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council 6-month extension of mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Council holds further consultations on situation in occupied Arab territories.

+ Parties to partial nuclear-test ban begin meeting to organize Amendment Conference.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Ottawa on Sunday to begin a four-day official visit to Canada which was also to take him to Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City.

He met with the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, for discussion on a wide range of international issues. The Secretary-General thanked Canada for its constant support to the United Nations, particularly in terms of resources. He noted that Canada had participated in all United Nations peace-keeping operations, save one.

The Secretary-General also met with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney who said that, in terms of accomplishments, the last five years were the most fruitful in the history of the Organization. The Secretary-General and the Prime Minister also discussed the forthcoming World Summit for Children. They discussed the ongoing financial situation of the United Nations and referred, in that context, to future United Nations operations in the field, in particular in Western Sahara and in Cambodia. The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 was also discussed.

Today, the Secretary-General was travelling to Montreal to deliver an address at McGill University on human rights.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights (UNDOF) for another six months, until 30 November.

The Force is responsible for supervising the observance of the cease-fire between Israel and Syria, and ensuring that there are no military forces within the area of separation.

In a report, the Secretary-General said UNDOF had continued to perform its functions effectively with the co-operation of both parties, and that during the past six months the area had remained quiet with no serious incidents. However, given the situation as a whole in the Middle East, he considered the continued presence of UNDOF to be essential.

The report noted that despite the present quiet in the Israeli-Syrian sector, UNDOF has continued to face restrictions on movement in certain areas by both sides. The Secretary-General also indicated that he would continue to exert all possible efforts to correct this situation.

The Security Council is to meet on Thursday to consider the Secretary-General's recommendation. Today, members of the Council held informal consultations in New York on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. This followed the Council's Geneva meeting on the subject. The meeting -- held in two sessions -- ended on Saturday.

It was announced this evening that the Council would meet tomorrow to hear a statement from its President, Klaus Tornudd of Finland.

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States parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear-Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water began preparatory work this morning for the Amendment Conference to convert the partial Treaty into a comprehensive nuclear-test ban. The Conference is to be held in New York next January.

In an opening statement to the two-week meeting, Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, said it was critical that progress be achieved towards a comprehensive test ban and a strengthening of the non-proliferation regime. He said the ultimate objective of a comprehensive test ban was not in question but there remained significant divergences of view on when and how to proceed to that goal. The current meeting, and the deliberations at the Amendment Conference, could have a special impact on the disarmament process as a whole, and efforts towards nuclear disarmament in particular.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/651
30 May 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ President of Security Council makes statement on behalf of its members on United Nations peace-keeping operations.

+ Secretary-General calls attack on Liberian nationals at United Nations compound in Monrovia a "grave violation" of agreements existing between United Nations and Liberia.

+ Government of Guatemala expresses concern to Secretary-General about "lack of satisfactory progress" in demobilization of Nicaraguan resistance.

+ Disarmament Commission concludes three-week session, adopting report to General Assembly with wide-range of draft recommendations for facilitating negotiations on general disarmament; strengthening role of United Nations in disarmament activities; and declaring 1990s as third disarmament decade.

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At a brief meeting of the Security Council this afternoon, its President, Klaus Tornudd of Finland, issued a statement on behalf of Council members calling for support for United Nations peace-keeping operations, financially and politically.

The President said the United Nations had played an increasingly important and active role in restoring and maintaining international peace and security. Council members expressed their satisfaction with the growing support of the international community for United Nations peace-keeping, but at the same time considered it of vital importance that adequate resources were available for their preparation, deployment and maintenance.

This must be underlined all the more in view of the new challenges in prospect. Members of the Council, therefore, urged Member countries to "respond positively and rapidly" to requests from the Secretary-General for contributions of financial, human and material resources for the operations. They emphasized that the operations must be launched and maintained on a sound

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and secure financial basis and stress the importance of full and timely payments of assessed contributions.

They also stressed that a peace-keeping operation was essentially a "temporary measure", intended to facilitate the resolution of conflicts and disputes. Its mandate was not automatically renewable. Peace-keeping should never be construed as a substitute for the ultimate goal -- an early negotiated settlement.

The statement said Council members were encouraged by recent achievements of United Nations peace-keeping, and they remained ready to consider launching new peace-keeping operations as and when necessary in the interest of international peace and security, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the united Nations Charter.

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A United Nations official said today that Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was "gravely concerned" at recent events in Liberia, and considered the attack last night on Liberian nationals at a United Nations compound in Monrovia "a grave violation of the agreements existing between the United Nations and Liberia".

Those agreements, said the official, committed the Liberian Government to respect the safety and immunity of the United Nations premises.

He said the Secretary-General had been informed by a United Nations official in Monrovia that during the early hours of Wednesday (30 May) a group of soldiers wearing masks forced their way into the United Nations compound, where several hundred Liberian nationals had sought temporary refuge. They bayonetted a guard and shot two others -- killing one and wounding the second. The soldiers then began beating men, women and children indiscriminately, causing many to flee. The soldiers then forced between 20 to 40 of them into nearby army vehicles and drove off. About 300-400 Liberian nationals remained within the compound.

The Secretary-General's Spokesman said the United Nations had just given orders to evacuate all international personnel in Liberia. Out of a total of 57 international staff serving with various United Nations agencies in the area, he said 46 had already been evacuated and the others were currently awaiting a plane to take them to Dakar.

At the request of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator in Monrovia has lodged a strong protest over the incident with the Liberian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

* * *

The Government of Guatemala has expressed concern about the "lack of satisfactory progress" in the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance.

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In a letter to the Secretary-General, the Government said it considered that, if the demobilization was not completed by 10 June, the stability of the democratic progress in the neighbouring country could be seriously affected.

It would be "hazardous" if the members of the Nicaraguan resistance were to remain, armed, in the security zones in violation of what was agreed between the leaders of the resistance and the Government of Nicaragua, an agreement that provided the basis for the Security Council to authorize the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to participate in the demobilization process.

The Government of Guatemala also said that if the demobilization process did not proceed normally, then it would have to propose a review of the mechanisms through which humanitarian assistance was being provided to the members of the Nicaraguan resistance.

* * *

The United Nations Disarmament Commission ended its three-week session in New York by adopting a report to the General Assembly containing wide-ranging draft recommendations for facilitating negotiations on general disarmament, strengthening the role of the United Nations in disarmament activities and declaring the 1990s as a third disarmament decade.

One recommendation called on all States to cease forthwith collaboration with South Africa in the military and nuclear fields which might contribute, directly or indirectly, to the development of its nuclear-weapon capability.

In a concluding statement, Nana S. Sutresna of Indonesia, Chairman of the Commission, said the prospect of agreements at this week's summit meeting between the United States and the Soviet Union on some issues of global concern had been instrumental in generating a more constructive atmosphere for the Commission's deliberations. He hoped the summit would lead to a more determined and decisive search for early and effective agreements on halting and reversing the arms race and achieving nuclear disarmament.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/652
31 May 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council renews mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another six months.

+ Security Council fails to adopt draft resolution establishing commission to examine situation in Palestinian territory occupied by Israel, due to negative vote of the United States; 14 Council members vote in favour.

+ Permanent members of Security Council inform Secretary-General on outcome of discussions held 25 and 26 May on modalities of comprehensive political settlement of Cambodian conflict.

+ The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) reports earthquakes in northern Peru and east-central Romania.

* * *

The Security Council today renewed the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another six months, until 30 November.

The Force is responsible for supervising the cease-fire between Israel and Syria and ensuring that there are no military forces within the area of separation.

In a report before the Council, the Secretary-General said UNDOF had continued to perform its functions effectively with the co-operation of both parties, and that during the past six months the area had remained quiet and without any serious incident. However, given the situation in the Middle East as a whole, he considered the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential.

The Secretary-General said the Middle East situation continued to be potentially dangerous and was likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement, covering all aspects of the Middle East problem,

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could be reached. In a statement to the Council, the President, Klaus Tornudd of Finland, said the remarks of the Secretary-General also reflected the view of the Council.

A draft resolution by which the Security Council would have sent a commission to the occupied territories to prepare recommendations on how best to ensure the safety of Palestinian civilians there, was defeated this evening due to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

The vote was 14 in favour to 1 against, with no abstentions. The negative vote was cast by the United States, which explained, after the vote, that it continued to prefer sending a special envoy of the Secretary-General to look at the situation.

Also speaking after the vote were representatives of the Soviet Union, Cuba, Yemen and the observer for Palestine, all of whom expressed disappointment that the draft had not been adopted and stressed that measures were urgently needed to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories. The observer for Palestine said the position of the United States was unpardonable; it had completely disregarded the rights of the Palestinians and ignored the moral and human dimensions of the situation.

Before the text was put to the vote, statements were made by representatives of Pakistan, Israel, Japan and the League of Arab States. Urging Council members not to adopt the draft, Israel said that 216 Palestinians had been slaughtered by their purported "protectors" in the uprising, but there had been no international condemnation. Protection was being demanded for the Palestinians but protection from whom? And who was to do the protecting?

Earlier today, a United Nations official said the Secretary-General was "deeply disturbed" by the reports of an attempted raid on Israeli beaches by Palestinian guerrillas. He once again urged all sides to exercise restraint so that prospects for peace could be advanced.

* * *

Representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council met in New York on 25 and 26 May for a fourth round of discussions on the modalities of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

In a letter addressed to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar following the meeting, representatives of China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States noted the recent positive steps towards peace in Cambodia and welcomed the prospect of a meeting in Tokyo in early June to bring together representatives of Cambodian parties.

The five expressed the hope that that dialogue would be transformed into a continuous process, in particular through agreement to the formation of a supreme national council. The five said they remained firmly convinced that only a comprehensive political settlement would bring lasting peace and

(more)

stability to Cambodia. They called on all Governments and interested parties to design their efforts to make possible at an early date the conditions necessary to reconvene the Paris Conference on Cambodia.

The five reaffirmed that a comprehensive political settlement must include specific provisions, such as the verification of the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the cessation of external military assistance and the regrouping of the armed forces of the factions into designated cantonment areas, all under the control of the United Nations. The settlement must also include the formal establishment of a supreme national council and the ensurance of free and fair elections for a constituent assembly under United Nations auspices.

The five also agreed to invite representatives of the Cambodian parties to hold discussions with them during their next meeting, which will take place in Paris before the middle of July.

* * *

Earthquakes in Peru and Romania were reported today by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO).

In Peru, a strong earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale occurred on Tuesday in the northern part of the country. This was the second quake in the area within 48 hours, the first one having occurred on the Pacific Coast at a lower intensity. The UNDRO reports the unofficial death toll at around 200 persons, with many more missing. Mudslides are reported to have buried entire villages and large numbers of houses, buildings and schools have collapsed.

Relief and rescue activities are under way by national civil defence teams, and two air force planes have been sent from Lima with medicines, food and blankets. The United Nations has established contact with Peruvian national relief authorities.

The Peruvian Government has not requested any international assistance at this time, but additional information is expected soon.

Romania also experienced two earthquakes. The UNDRO reported that the first, yesterday, measured 6.5 on the Richter scale, followed by a second one today measuring 5.9.

Both quakes occurred in the Vrancea region in the east-central part of the country. The latest information has put the death toll at eight and about 120 injured, mainly due to falling masonry and panic.

The Government of Romania has not requested international assistance.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/653
1 June 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to visit Washington, D.C., from 4-6 June, for meetings with United States President and other officials.

+ Trusteeship Council ends fifty-seventh session, adopting conclusions and recommendations to be included in its report to the Security Council.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will travel to Washington, D.C., on Monday, 4 June, for a three-day visit, during which he will meet with President George Bush, senior Congressional leaders and others.

On Monday, the Secretary-General will have lunch at the White House with President Bush and a number of senior Administration officials. He will receive State Department officials, followed by an evening programme as the guest of the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington.

Among his appointments for Tuesday are a luncheon with the editorial board of The Washington Post and a reception in his honour to be attended by heads of non-governmental organizations and representatives of United Nations agencies in Washington.

On 6 June, the Secretary-General will be the guest of honour at a morning reception hosted by Representative Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and at a luncheon hosted by Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Secretary-General will also have individual meetings with members of Congress and the Administration on Tuesday and Wednesday.

* * *

The Trusteeship Council this morning noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the United States as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands that it would continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship

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Agreement, and welcomed its assurance that it was prepared to assist Palauans in determining their political status.

The Council noted that the people of the Trust Territory had elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields. It further noted Palau's concern regarding economic development and self-sufficiency, and shared the view that continued efforts were needed in that regard.

The five-member Council took these actions by approving, by a show-of-hands vote of 4 in favour (China, France, United Kingdom, United States) to none against, with 1 abstention (Soviet Union), conclusions and recommendations proposed by its Drafting Committee. The conclusions and recommendations will be included in the Trusteeship Council's report to the Security Council. The Council will take up the report at its resumed session, at a date to be announced.

In other action, the Council adopted a resolution in which it took note of the report of its Visiting Mission which was dispatched to observe the February plebiscite in Palau, and expressed appreciation for the work accomplished.

In a closing statement, the Council President, Anne Secret-Gazeau of France, said the deliberations had been very constructive. The Council should take advantage of the new atmosphere and move towards even more harmonious views.

Among today's speakers, Victorio Uherbelau, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Palau, said, regarding the Administering Authority's intention to enhance its physical presence in Palau, that the advisers and experts not take over vital functions of the Government, which had been carried out by Palauans themselves. He welcomed the planned establishment of the Pacific office in Honolulu and hoped it would have a multifaceted function dealing with other United States Pacific insular areas and Territories and would serve as a catalyst for co-ordination of United States Federal programmes.

Stella Guerra, of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs of the United States Department of the Interior, said the political future of Palau was up to the Palauans. The United States believed Palau was ready for complete self-government. In the meantime, it was prepared to carry out its administering responsibilities and was opening an expanded office in Honolulu, which would provide support facilities for an upgraded presence of the Administering Authority in Palau. It would have a resident representative for providing advice and direction to the local government. That would especially affect the budgetary process and help constitutional authorities to manage their resources and to live within their means.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/654
4 June 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General meets with United States President Bush and other senior administration staff on first day of three-day official visit to Washington. He welcomes agreements signed in that city last Friday between the United States and the Soviet Union on disarmament.

+ Secretary-General decides to send United Nations fact-finding team to visit South Africa to ascertain progress achieved towards ending apartheid. States parties to Convention against Apartheid in Sports agree on apportioning of expenses of Convention's monitoring body.

+ Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space opens session; hears address by its Chairman who notes improved new world relations.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived this morning in Washington, D.C., for a three-day official visit. He had a private meeting at the White House with President George Bush which lasted 20 minutes during which he discussed the situation in the Middle East, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iran/Iraq, Central America and also discussed the United States contribution to the United Nations budget. After a luncheon given by President Bush, he met with senior Administration staff and discussed overall resources needed to carry out the United Nations agenda.

In a statement issued last Friday, the Secretary-General offered his congratulations to Presidents Bush and Gorbachev on the outcome of the summit held last week in Washington between the two leaders. Mr. Perez de Cuellar welcomed the agreements signed on chemical weapons, disarmament, on ratifying the protocols to the 1974 and 1976 treaties on nuclear testing, on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, on progress towards an accord on strategic arms and on efforts to achieve an agreement on conventional forces in Europe. Those measures signified "clear progress in disarmament matters", he said, which could have important consequences on the international community as a whole. He further stated that he looked forward to the positive and constructive implementation of the agreements reached and to further important advances in the future.

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Today at a press conference at Headquarters, one of the members of President Gorbachev's summit team, Andrei Grachev, Deputy Chief of the Central Committee's International Department, said the meeting had been the most constructive and important in the history of Soviet-American relations.

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The Secretary-General has decided to send a team of senior United Nations officials to South Africa on a fact-finding mission. The officials will meet with members of the Government, and with representatives of political parties and movements to gather information on the measures taken and proposals made to end the apartheid system.

Such information will assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of his report to the General Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. The Declaration, which was adopted by consensus at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly last December, requested the Secretary-General to prepare such a report by 1 July.

Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Farah will lead the team and will be accompanied by Assistant Secretary-General Sotirios Mousouris and other senior officials. The team plans to be in South Africa from 9 to 19 June and will start its meetings on 11 June in Cape Town. During its stay, the team will also visit Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

In a statement issued today at Headquarters regarding the visit by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, R.F. Botha, emphasized that the South African Government had "no objection to correct information on South Africa" being made available to the Secretary-General on condition that "the Secretary-General clearly understands that this is not to be construed as co-operation in the implementation" of the General Assembly Declaration on South Africa.

He said the South African Government had made it clear that it rejected the General Assembly's action.

The States parties to the Convention against Apartheid in Sports agreed this morning, without a vote, on the apportionment of expenses of the members of the Convention's monitoring body, the Commission against Apartheid in Sports.

For 1990, the expenses of the 15-member Commission, amounting to $22,100, will be apportioned among the Convention's 46 States parties on the basis of the scale of assessments for the regular budget of the United Nations. For 1991, the apportionment will be 50 per cent equally among the States parties and 50 per cent on the basis of the scale of assessments.

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The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space this afternoon began its 1990 session, at a time when, according to its Chairman, Peter Jankowitsch of Austria, the new détente in international affairs had enhanced international co-operation in peaceful space activities.

Recent positive developments included improved information exchange on climate and the environment; international co-operation in disaster relief following the Armenian earthquake; and establishment of a permanent group on space biology and medicine, he said.

The Chairman then reviewed the work of the Committee's Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee and its Legal Sub-Committee, as well as that of their respective working groups.

The primary focus of the use of space technology during International Space Year (1992) would be on monitoring climate and the environment. Space debris was of particular concern, he said. A large number of spent rockets and fragments were in orbit. Over 7,000 known space objects currently circled the earth, of which no more than 350 were active and fulfilling any function, he declared.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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DH/655
5 June 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, on official visit to Washington, D.C., is informed by President Bush that the United States will soon release an additional $62.5 million to the United Nations to pay current dues; meets other United States officials, participates in discussion programme of Council on Foreign Relations.

+ World Environment Day, focusing on children and the environment is observed at headquarters. Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) issue statements.

* Secretary-General, reporting to Security Council on the United Nations Observer Group in Central America, states that there has been "no serious violations" of the cease-fire in Nicaragua.

+ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it extends mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for a further six-month period, until 1 December.

* * *

The Secretary-General, during discussions yesterday in Washington, D.C., with President George Bush, was told that the United States would soon release an additional $62.5 million to the Organization to pay current dues. President Bush reaffirmed his view that the United States should meet its financial obligations to the United Nations, which were solemn international obligations made by the United States after full consultation with Congress. He expressed his hope that Congress would provide the necessary funds, including the payment of arrears. The two also discussed a broad range of international issues.

Similar topics were discussed at an afternoon meeting between the Secretary-General and State Department officials. The Secretary-General later received the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Robert M. Kimmett, in his capacity as Acting Secretary of State, who was accompanied by seven regional bureau Assistant Secretaries or their deputies. The meeting lasted more than an hour.

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The Secretary-General then attended a reception and off-the-record discussion programme attended by over 100 members of the Council on Foreign Affairs, including former and present government officials, diplomats, scholars and other foreign policy professionals. Alton Frye, Washington Director of the Foreign Relations Council, and the Secretary-General engaged in a colloquy before the floor was opened to questions from the audience. The one-hour discussion session touched on theoretical as well as practical questions, such as United Nations Charter revision, the nature of United Nations peace-keeping, the United Nations role in dealing with global environmental issues, Cyprus, the Middle East and North-South relations.

Today, the second day of his three-day visit, the Secretary-General received a call from Senator Bob Graham of Florida, during which they discussed Western Hemispheric relations, support for democracies and the international drug problem. The Senator also raised the question of human rights in Cuba.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. This evening, he planned to attend a reception with the Presidents of non-governmental organization and United Nations agency heads in Washington, an event co-sponsored by the Council of Washington Representatives on the United Nations.

* * *

Today, 5 June, is World Environment Day -- a day set aside by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to raise awareness on the basic elements of the environment affecting human survival. This year, the major focus is the survival, protection and development of the world's children.

The Secretary-General, in a message commemorating the Day, stated: "Our generation of men and women is in danger of forfeiting the future of our children." He called for international action at an unprecedented scale.

The Executive Director of UNEP, Mostafa K. Tolba, said some 14 million children died each year because of contaminated water, poor sanitation, pollution and malnutrition. Tools were available to wisely manage the resources of the earth, and he urged everyone to work towards environmental protection, through actions at home, at work and in the community.

The Day is being celebrated world-wide, with activities that include tree planting, education campaigns and community mobilization efforts. This year, Mexico City is the host of World Environment Day. The Executive Directors of UNEP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will deliver the 1990 report on the state of the environment. In addition, over 5 million trees will be planted throughout the country, and a time capsule containing personal messages of hope for the next generation will be buried in a ceremony.

United Nations Publications today released a children's book, BLUE AND BEAUTIFUL -- Planet Earth, Our Home, in connection with the observance of the Day. Introducing the book to correspondents, Susanna Johnston, of the

Publications Section of the Department of Conference Services, said it was intended to capture the essence of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment for children in the 7-11 age group.

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In his latest report to the Security Council on the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), the Secretary-General states that there had been "no serious violations" of the cease-fire in Nicaragua by the Nicaraguan army. He said that while there had been some breaches of the agreement on the separation of forces in certain areas, almost all had been quickly resolved.

Two weeks ago, the Nicaraguan resistance reported cease-fire violations to United Nations Observers stationed there to monitor the demobilization process. The ONUCA also received complaints from the Nicaraguan Government about the presence outside the security zones of armed members of the resistance who had allegedly stolen cattle and committed other criminal acts.

Under the Managua Agreements, the demobilization process is scheduled to conclude on 10 June. The Secretary-General noted that at the current rate, if there was no improvement, large numbers of contras would remain under arms in the security zones.

The Secretary-General intends to present a further report to the Council by next Sunday concerning the completion of the demobilization process.

A United Nations official said today that, as of yesterday, the number of contras demobilized was 832, for a cumultative total in all zones of 4,745.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six-month period.

In the report issued today, which covers developments in Cyprus from 1 December 1989 to 31 May, the Secretary-General stated that Gustave Feissel, a Director in his Office, had, in the absence of Oscar Camilion (his Special Representative on the situation), spent several weeks in Cyprus to hold, on his behalf, consultations with the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sides. Those contacts had not yet been concluded. The Secretary-General intended to submit to the Council a further report and related observations, as soon as that happened.

He stated that the continued presence of the Force in the island remained indispensable to achieve the objectives set by the Council. He underlined that UNFICYP was facing a chronic and ever-deepening financial crisis, which imposed an "inordinately heavy burden" on the countries contributing troops to the Force. He fully shared their Governments' concern at the situation, adding that an important step towards alleviating it would be for the United Nations share of the cost of the Force to be financed from assessed contributions.

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